

REMARKS

Claims 14-29 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-13 have been canceled and claims 14-29 are newly presented. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the application, drawings and claims as originally filed and, as such, no new matter has been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Office has stated that claims 4-13 have not been treated on the merits as these claims were not presented in proper multiple dependent form. Applicant notes that claims 4-13 have been canceled by this paper.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully rendered moot as Claim 3 has been canceled by this paper.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schmid (U.S. Pat. No. 5,702,314). This rejection is respectfully rendered moot as claim 1 has been canceled by this paper.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmid (U.S. Pat. No. 5,702,314) in view of Ayukawa (U.S. Pat. No. 5,470,280). This rejection is respectfully rendered moot as claims 2 and 3 have been canceled by this paper.

Concerning the Examiner's statement concerning the disclosure in Ayukawa, Applicant submits that Ayukawa does not teach or suggest a plastic that is reinforced with glass spheres. As such, it appears that the position of the Examiner must be based on the Examiner's personal knowledge. As the Examiner knows, the Examiner's ability to use personal knowledge is qualified by 37 C.F.R. 1.104(d)(2), which states:

When a rejection in an application is based on facts within the personal knowledge of an employee of the Office, the data shall be as specific as possible, and the reference must be supported, when called for by the applicant, by the affidavit of such employee, and such affidavit shall be subject to contradiction or explanation by the affidavits of the applicant or other persons.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide an affidavit supporting the Examiner's position that one of skill in the art would understand from Ayukawa that the disclosure of a plastic made of nylon and reinforced with glass fiber would also disclose a plastic that was reinforced with glass spheres.

NEWLY PRESENTED CLAIMS

Newly presented independent claim 14 includes a spring sleeve element and a wrap bush element that are not found in Schmid (USPN 5,702,314) or Ayukawa (U.S. Pat. No. 5,470,280). Moreover, claim 14 includes a wrap bush element that is not found in DE 40 10 928. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

Applicant notes that claims 15 through 29 depend from claim 14, either directly or indirectly. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 15 through 29 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above for claim 14.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

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Respectfully submitted,

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